BLACK LINES

October 2001, Vol. 6, No. 9 Free/$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

KAREN RAMIREZ

Brit lesbian singer takes the U.S. by storm

See p. 18

JOEL HALL DANCERS BENEFIT

p. 6

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Sundays, 10:30 p.m.-midnight
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www.wctimes.com

Respectfully Yours

the joel hall dancers benefit 2001

Please join the Board of Directors, our Honorary Committee, Row Captains, Joel Hall and the staff of the Joel Hall Dance Center in celebrating twenty seven years of artistic excellence and community service in Chicago

Respectfully Yours

the joel hall dancers benefit 2001

Joel Hall

Jessica Halem

T.C. Carson

Saturday, October 13, 2001
Park West 322 W. Armitage Avenue, Chicago

Respectfully Yours highlights will include:
World Premiere of new work by Joel Hall
Company Premiere of work by respected choreographers
Company Premiere of work by Sarita Smith Childs
World Premiere of JHD 1511,
our new Youth Performing Company

Masters of Ceremony for the evening will be
T.C. Carson, recording artist, entertainer and star of the hit sitcom "*Living Single*"
Jessica Halem, comedian, writer and activist

Cash Bar
Valet Parking Available

Tickets available by calling the
Joel Hall Dance Center 773-293-0900
or through TicketMaster 312-559-1212
A service charge will be applied when ordering via TicketMaster.
Limited ticket availability at the door

Proceeds from *Respectfully Yours*, the Joel Hall Dancers Benefit 2001, will support the creation of new works for the company by nationally recognized choreographers and the continuation of the Joel Hall Dance Center Scholarship program for young dancers.

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BLACKlines

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Tennis

Second City Winter Doubles League

Registration on Saturday, October 13
Spin Nightclub (Belmont & Halsted)

Returning teams consisting of two returning doubles players sign up 5-5:30pm
Teams of one returning doubles player and a new player sign up 5:30-6pm
Teams consisting of two new players sign up 6-7pm

Matches are on Friday nights at Midtown Tennis Club. All skill levels are welcome.

For more information call John (773) 467-4306 or James (773) 477-9217 or visit www.chicagomsa.com

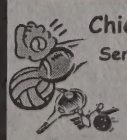
Volleyball

CMSA Volleyball League at Broadway Armory

Team & Individual Player Registration on Saturday, October 13
3:00—6:00 p.m.
Big Chicks (5024 N. Sheridan)
Games are on Sundays at Broadway Armory.
All skill levels are welcome.

For more information visit www.chicagomsa.com or call Rob (773) 508-0736

CMSA Women's Volleyball League at Kilbourn Park begins on Sundays in December. Contact Josie (773) 506-9693 for more info.



Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association
Serving the Chicago area GLBT community since 1978.
For more info, call (312) 409-7932 or visit www.ChicagoMSA.com. CMSA is a not-for-profit lesbigay sports organization

Bowling ♦ Flag Football ♦ Softball ♦ Tennis ♦ Volleyball

If you or your same-sex partner are not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, your relationship will not be sufficient to keep you together here.

Immigration Laws Can End A Relationship.

> **Immigration laws discriminate:** Same-sex partners are not given the rights granted to married couples.

> **Same-sex couples can be separated by deportation;** violations can result in detention and fines.

> **24 other nations recognize same-sex relationships for residency rights,** including Australia, France, Israel, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The Permanent Partners Immigration Act, H.R. 690, would modify the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act to provide same-sex partners of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents the same immigration rights that legal partners of U.S. residents enjoy.

Learn more, speak out and send a message directly to Washington:

Chicago town hall meeting on the Permanent Partners Immigration Act

October 18, 2001
6:30 pm
Ann Sather's Restaurant
929 W. Belmont

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
ACLU OF ILLINOIS
HEARTLAND ALLIANCE
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY

Sponsored by Human Rights Campaign in cooperation with American Civil Liberties Union, Heartland Alliance, Lambda Legal Defense and People for the American Way.

For more information, call 312-409-9129; also, visit www.HRC.org/issues/immigration.

The Color Triangle Jam was co-hosted by dozens of community groups to bring all parts of the GLBT community together. Pics by Israel Wright

SERVING CHICAGO'S BLACK LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

Affinity

Creating Visibility

5650 S. Woodlawn Ave
Lower Level
Chicago, IL 60637
773-324-0377
Email - affinity95@aol.com

Healthy Woman Series

New Programming:

Yoga
Steppin' Dance Class
Walkin' with the Gurls

Check voicemail for times and fees

Lez Chat

Thursday, October 11th, 7:00 pm
I Got Your Back:
Dealing with Legal Issues in a Committed Relationship
Guest Speaker: Attorney Marguerite Griffin

Social Justice Forum

Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 pm
Homophobia in Africa
Guest Speaker: Lynette Jackson
UIC Professor

Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, October 18th, 7:00 pm

"Xpressions of You"

Youth Drop-In
Friday October 19th, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

40 Plus Women's Program

Saturday October 20, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Newlywed Game:
Do you really know your partner???

Couples of all ages who have been in a committed relationship from six months to two years are invited to participate. Please call voice mail to RSVP!

Special Events

The LCCP Annual Cruise has been rescheduled to Saturday October 20th.
11:30 am until 2:00 pm
Tickets are $90.00
Boat leaves from Navy Pier
For more information:
(773) 324-0377

October is Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

Center Drop-In Times

Saturday October 13th 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday October 27th 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sisters can use this time to socialize, meditate or pick up the latest community papers or calendars.

Game Night Returning Soon!

HALL OF FAMERS ANNOUNCED

The following individuals are going to be inducted into the **Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame** in October:

— **Lora Branch,** 38, public health administrator and educator, video producer (Kevin's Room) and African-American lesbian and gay community activist, for her efforts to heighten awareness of HIV/AIDS and other health issues. She is currently head of the Chicago Department of Health Office of Gay and Lesbian Health.

— **Robert Castillo,** 33, queer Latino activist, for launching grassroots sexual-minority campaigns during the past decade involving Latinas and Latinos, gender-identity bias, homophobic violence, neighborhood activism, human-rights laws, and HIV/AIDS.

— **Antonio David Jimenez,** 47, social service administrator and HIV/AIDS educator, for more than a decade of health education and risk-reduction activism among African-American and Latino men who have sex with men; co-founder of Minority Outreach Intervention Project.

— **Keith Elliott,** 42, dancer, choreographer and producer, for a decade of creating and developing the annual Dance for Life, which has raised more than $1.5 million to fight HIV/AIDS, and for other artistic services.

— **Frank Goley** (posthumous, 1943-1994) and **Bob Maddox,** 66, for helping to pioneer openly gay businesses in Chicago since 1972 with their leatherwear store, at which Goley created many designs that found favor with leather and motorcycle enthusiasts worldwide.

Lora Branch

— **Chuck Hyde,** 39, businessman (co-owner of Sidetrack bar) and fundraising advisor, for 19 years of helping organizations to produce benefits and developing relations between them and underwriters in the business community.

— **Michael Leppen,** 48, philanthropist, fundraiser, and board member, for services to a large variety of community groups concerned with such issues as HIV/AIDS, youth, human rights and cancer among lesbians.

— **Ellen Meyers,** 43, political organizer and Secretary of State Jesse White's assistant director of intergovernmental affairs, for 15 years of supporting human-rights laws, persons affected by HIV/AIDSs or aging, and electoral involvement.

— **Kathryn Munzer,** 54, social services professional and volunteer arts booker, for 20 years of helping Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn and Children, developing lesbian musicians and other artists, and fostering lesbian culture.

Friends of the community: state **Rep. Sara Feigenholtz,** 44, and author **Studs Terkel,** 89. Organization of the Year: **Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.**

The **Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues** is in charge of the world's only municipally sponsored **Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.**

The **Hall of Fame ceremony** will be Wed., Oct. 24, 5:30 p.m. in Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago at Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington. It is a free event.

Joel Hall Dancers Benefit

Three new dance premieres and the company premiere of its new Youth Performing Company will headline the Annual Fall Benefit of the Joel Hall Dancers scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13. "Respectfully Yours" will take place at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage Avenue, in Chicago. A VIP reception is at 6:30 pm, performance at 8:30 pm.

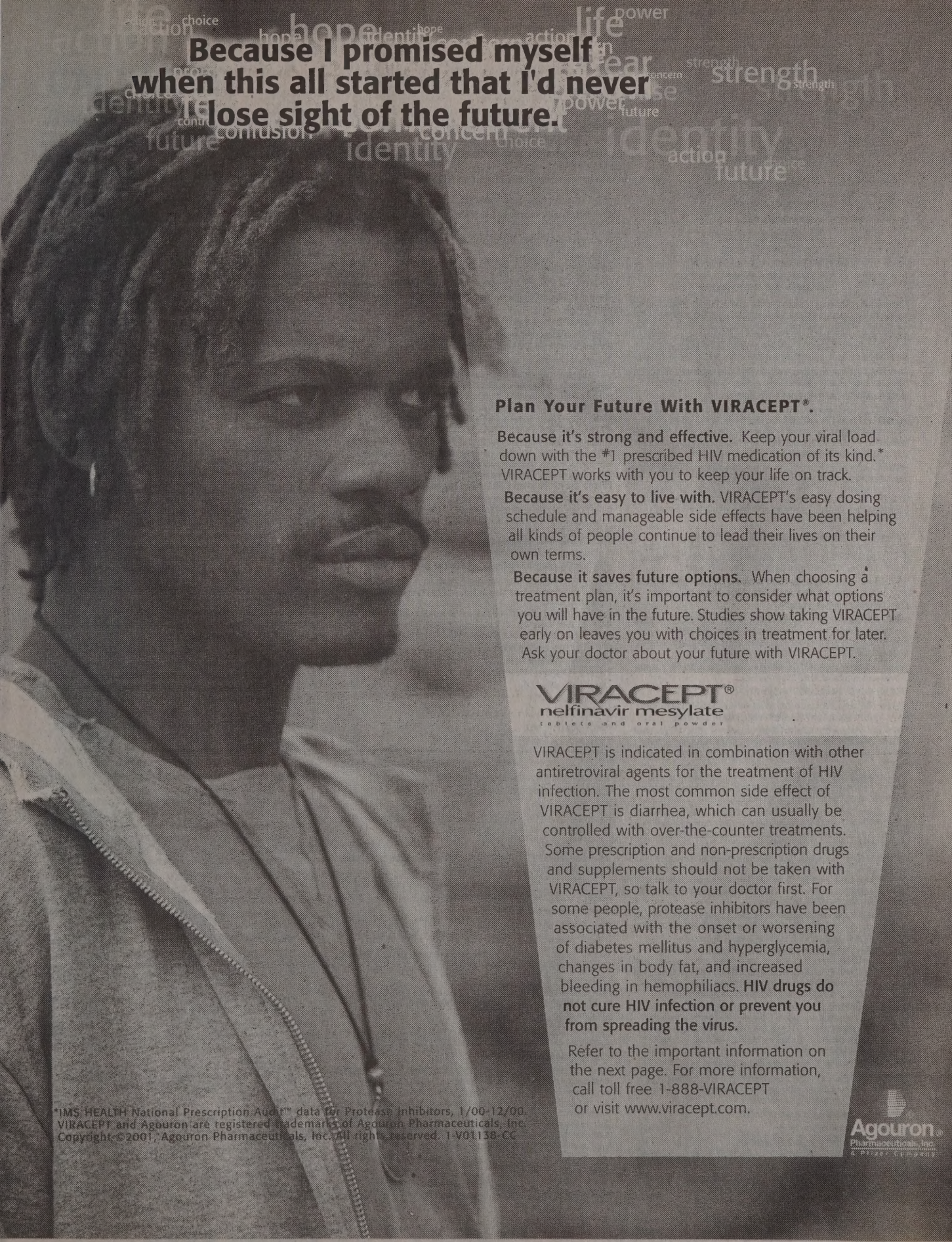
Founded in 1974, Chicago's longest thriving multi-cultural and multi-ethnic dance organization consists of the Joel Hall Dancers, a professional dance company, and The Joel Hall Dance Center, the teaching facility. Today the organization's principal goals remain unchanged—to succeed as a nationally and internationally acclaimed performance company and to work for the enhancement of Chicago's cultural, educational and social life. The Dance Center is located at 1511 W. Berwyn in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood.

This ethnically and culturally diverse professional company has performed extensively throughout the Chicago area, the United States and Europe.

Programs include both full-length and mixed repertoire performances incorporating dance styles such as urban jazz, modern, ballet, hip-hop, and traditional African. Repertoire includes: NUTS & BOLTS, A Jazzy Nutcracker; The Crossing; El Gato Negro; L'Etranger and Caliente Por Favor.

The Joel Hall Dancers will premier three new works: one world premiere by Artistic Director Joel Hall, a Company Premiere by significant Chicago modern dance choreographer, Richard Arve, and a third company premiere by Sarita Smith Childs, a Ruth Page Award-recipient in 2000. Up and coming Chicago theatre artist/comedian/personality Jessica Halem and T.C. Carson, recording artist and star of the hit comedy television series, Living Single, will serve as Masters of Ceremony. Currently living in LA, T.C. is a native of Chicago. T.C. studied at the Joel Hall Dance Center and counts Joel Hall among his mentors. Jessica has garnered recent notice for her work with "The Hysterical Women," a group of lesbian stand-up comics. A US representative to the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women, Jessica is the new Executive Director of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, a local 10-year-old health agency.

Pre-concert VIP dessert reception at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the 8:30 pm performance. Tickets are $125 including VIP reception, $75 General Admission. Tickets can be purchased by calling 773.293.0900, online at ticketmaster.com, or by calling Ticketmaster at 312-559-1212.



Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

*IMS HEALTH National Prescription Audit™ data for Protease Inhibitors, 1/00-12/00.

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VIRACEPT®

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (Vi-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should <u>not</u> take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:
Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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CALENDAR

Friday, Sept. 28

Howard Brown Health Center Cut From the Same Cloth, a roundtable discussion on black gay life led by Keith Boykin, the highest ranking openly gay member of the Clinton White House and former director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. The event is free but seating is limited; RSVP to (773) 388-1600. 5:30-8:30 p.m., 4025 N. Sheridan, www.howardbrown.org

Saturday, Sept. 29

Affinity Calling all poets, singers and performers for a Black Light Poetry Night. 7-10:30 p.m., $5, 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com

FUEL FUEL Dance Party, Chicago's only queer youth dance party, for ages 14-25. 8 p.m.-midnight, $5, Joel Hall Dance Center, 1511 W. Berwyn

Park West Milly's Orchid Show's All Gal Review #2, Park West, (773) 929-5959

Thursday, Oct. 4

Chicago International Film Festival Through Oct. 18that the Music Box and Landmark Century Centre theaters, (312) 332-FILM, www.chicagofilmfestival.com

Friday, Oct. 5

Chicago Gender Society A bevy of beauties compete for the title of Miss Chicago Gender Society 8 p.m., $30, Radisson Hotel, 75 W. Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights, (708) 863-7714

Chicago Theatre The internationally acclaimed Boys Choir of Harlem visits Chicago (312) 902-1500

HotHouse Funk/jazz vocalist YahZarah. 10:30 p.m, 31 E. Balbo, (312) 362-9707, www.hothouse.net

Onyx Blackout VI 2001, a weekend of leather and people of color. $80, conference through Sunday, Oct. 7. (312) 329-6141 or www.onyxmen.com

Saturday, Oct. 6

ACLU Celebrate the Bill of Rights, a gala event to benefit the ACLU'S Roger Baldwin Foundation. 6 p.m., $250, Hyatt Regency Chgo, (312) 201-9740

Chgo Anti-Bashing Network (CABN) Annual March Against Anti-Gay Hate, commemorating the third anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard. (773) 878-3697

High Risk Gallery Boston singer Kate Schutt returns to Chicago for a rockin' evening. 8 p.m., $8 donation, 1115 W. Belmont, (773) 871-7610

Sunday, Oct. 7

Jilly's Retro Club Groove Fox Sounds Productions presents Bump & Grind Time, with beats by Mother W/A 12 Inch, Charles Matlock, Andre Hatchet and Joe Smooth. A portion of proceeds goes to AIDS Foundation. 1009 N. Rush, (312) 664-2100

Wednesday, Oct. 10

HotHouse Veteran jazz reedman Hannah Jon Taylor is joined by Jim Baker on piano, Vincent Davis on drums and Brian Smith on bass. 8:30 p.m, 31 E. Balbo, (312) 362-9707

Thursday, Oct. 11

Affinity Lez Chat this month discusses Dealing with Legal Issues in a Committed Relationship, with guest speaker attorney Marguerite Griffin. 7 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com

HotHouse Journalist Mike Wilke presents Commercial Closet, his 60-minute video presentation on gay and lesbian images in advertising, with a question and answer session to follow. 5:30 p.m., $25-$50, 31 E. Balbo, (847) 375-4728, www.commercialcloset.org

Sundance Channel Conversations in World Cinema: Christine Vacho at 8:30 p.m. At 9 p.m. is A Union in Wait, a documentary about a lesbian couple who, in seeking to plan a commitment ceremony, ignite a town controversy and make national headlines. Rounding out the evening at 10 p.m. is Chuck and Buck.

Friday, Oct. 12

Guild Complex Guild's annual Women Writers Conference, with workshops, panels, author readings and an open mic, through Sunday, Oct. 14. Tonight, keynote reading with novelist Paule Marshall and poet Sharon Olds. 7 p.m., $12-$15, Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State, (312) 227-6117, www.guildcomplex.com

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Bon Foster Memorial Civil Rights Lecture (312) 663-4413

Men of All Colors Together (MACT) Setting Goals for Our Chapter. 7:30 p.m., Ann Sather, 929 W. Belmont, (312) 409-6916, mactchgo@aol.com

Saturday, Oct. 13

Affinity Center drop-in time; stop by to meditate, socialize and use the library. 2-5 p.m., (773) 324-0377

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity/Unidad 2001, a collaborative, interactive and inclusive bridge building event for all the diversities of Chicago's LGBT community. Workshops, networking, speakers, performers and a town hall meeting. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., UIC Student Center, 828 S. Wolcott, (312) 409-4917, cblg2k1@aol.com

Community Response 2nd West Suburban AIDS Walk, (708) 386-3383

Kindred Hearts Dance with the girl of your dreams at Kindred Hearts' 2nd Annual Homecoming Dance. 8 p.m., 2214 Ridge, Evanston, (847) 604-0913, KndrdHrts@aol.com

Mountain Moving Coffee House for Womyn and Children Jazz vocalist Tara Ayres performs. 7:30 p.m., Summerdale Community Church, 1700 W. Farragut, (312) 409-0276

Joel Hall Dancers Benefit 2001 Respectfully Yours, a benefit performance gala featuring a world premiere dance by Joel Hall and the world premiere of JHD 1511, Joel Hall's new youth performing company. Masters of Ceremony for the evening are Jessica Halem and Living Single's T.C. Carson. 7:30 pm, $75-$125, Park West, 322 W Armitage, (773) 293-0900

Sunday, Oct. 14

Men of All Colors Together (MACT) Theater Party! MACT goes to see Naked Boys Singing at the Bailiwick; RSVP to (773) 549-7066. 7 p.m., mactchgo@aol.com

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Affinity Social Justice Forum this month discusses homophobia in Africa; guest speaker is UIC professor Lynette Jackson. 7 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377

Thursday, Oct. 18

Affinity Volunteer orientation at this community center for African-American lesbians and bi women. 7 p.m., (773) 324-0377

Friday, Oct. 19

Affinity Xpressions of You youth drop-in. 7-9 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377

HotHouse Katalyst Live, a Chicago ensemble that fuses jazz and hip hop, is joined by award-winning jazz and neo-soul vocalist Ledisi. 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20

Affinity 40 Plus Women's Program presents a couples program: The Newlywed Game: Do You Really Know Your Partner? Couples who have been in a committed relationship from 6 months to 2 years are invited to participate; RSVP to (773) 324-0377. 4-6 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level

Lesbian Community Cancer Project Cruising 6...Because We Care: 6th annual Jazz Brunch Cruise, co-chaired by Gary Rice and Sharon Mylrea (rescheduled from Sept. 16; all tickets from that date will be honored). Proceeds benefit LCCP. Champagne pre-reception, 10 a.m., boat boards at 11:30 a.m., returns at 2 p.m. Brunch buffet, raffles, live auction, and entertainment from Penelope Walker and the From the Edge jazz band, featuring Laurie Lee Moses. $90-$125, Odyssey Cruise Ship, Navy Pier, (773) 561-4662

Women of the Western Suburbs (WOWS) WOWS' Fall Dance. 8-11:30 p.m., $12-$18, The Barn, 431 W. Martin, Naperville, (847) 622-4327

Monday, Oct. 22

October 22nd Coalition National day of protest against police brutality takes place in 70+ areas around the country. Wear black and assemble at noon for a march/rally at Federal Plaza, Adams & Dearborn. (773) 528-1701, chicago@october22.org

Tuesday, Oct. 23

High Risk Gallery Queer fiction writers Aldo Alvarez and Achy Obejas read tonight, in an evening hosted by WCT's own Gregg Shapiro. Co sponsored by Amigas Latinas, Association of Latin Men for Action, and En La Vida. 6:30 p.m., $3 donation, 1115 W. Belmont, (773) 871-7610

Wednesday, Oct. 24

Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame Our fair city's annual toast to the GLBT community. 5:30 p.m., Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, (312) 744-6630

Friday, Oct. 26

Auditorium Thtr Dance Africa 2001: Ancient Traditions, Urban Reflections features Uganda's N'Dere, Atlanta's The Ballethnic Dance Co and Baltimore's Sankofa Dance Thtr. Joining them will be five Chicago spoken word artists, providing a bridge between dance and storytelling, tonight through Oct 28. $20-$30, 50 E. Congress, (312) 922-2110

Saturday, Oct. 27

Affinity Center drop-in time; stop by to meditate, socialize and use the library. 2-5 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377

Howard Brown Health Center Puttin' on the Glitz HBHC's annual gala benefit dinner features music of the 1930s and 40s. Honorees this year are Frank Oldham, Jr., Stephen Phelps, Sean Susanin, Courtney Reid, and Affinity. $200-$500, Chicago Hilton & Towers, 720 S. Michigan, (773) 388-8992

UNITY 2001

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays presents "Engage, Embrace, Togetherness/2001; Unidad es: Involucrar, Adoptar, Solidaridad"

Unity 2001 is a collaborative, interactive, and inclusive bridge-building event for all of the diversities of Chicago's LGBT community. Unity 2001 will take place on Saturday Oct. 13 at the Illinois Student Center at UIC, 828 S. Wolcott. Unity 2001 will feature interactive workshops.

Co-sponsored by MOCHA, Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Gay Tours, Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Open Hand Chicago, Horizons Community Services, and Transgenesis.

For info call (312) 409-4917 or CBLG2K1@aol.com.

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ARTS EXPRESS

**** Gay/les/bi/queer/trans content or interest BBB = Black interest

THEATER

Previews and Opening Nights

****Oct 4: Undone** Cin Salach stars in About Face Youth Thtr's new original work of music theater, based on Salach's writings, with an original rock score by Andre Pluess and Ben Sussman. Thurs-Sun, 8 pm, thru Nov 18. $18-$25, 3212 N Broadway, 773 549-3290

BBBBOct 12: Cinderella: A Hip-Hop Tale of an Illegal Alien Fivestar Boogie Productions presents a live mix of breakdancing, rapping and comedy in this tale of an illegal alien and her two fly stepsisters in a mad search for a husband and a green card. Fri, 11 pm, Sat, midnight, thru Nov 17. $12, Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 W. Belmont, 773 883-1090, www.fivestarboogie.com

BBBBOct 13: Rumpelstiltskin Emerald City Thtr Co presents an original musical by Steve Goers, based on the classic fairy tale. Sat-Sun, 1 pm, thru Nov 18. $8-$10, Apollo Thtr, 773 935-6100

****Oct 15: Girl, Girl, Boy, Boy** Annual gay & lesbian one-act festival, with plays by David-Matthew Barnes, Eric Lane, and Samuel Schwartz, Jr. Mon-Wed, 8 pm, thru Oct 30. $10, Dorothy Nickle Performing Arts Company, 4227 N Lincoln, 773 529-4215, www.dnpac.com

BBBBOct 17: Incognito Michael Fosberg's solo performance traces his search for his biological father, which sets in motion a series of discoveries about the secrets of his family's past. Weds-Sat, 7:30, thru Nov 11. $20-$25, Bailiwick 773 883-1090

****Oct 21: A Little Night Music** Porchlight Thtr presents Stephen Sondheim's musical about three mismatched couples who find themselves at an isolated estate for a weekend of unexpected revelations. Fri-Sat, 8:15 pm, Sun, 3 pm, thru Dec 16. $23, Thtr Building, 773 325-9884

BBBBOct 26: Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies Tony Award winning retrospective and tribute to the music of the legendary jazz great, thru Oct 27. New Regal Thtr, 1645 E 79th, 312 902-1500, www.ticketmaster.com

BBBBNov 2: Bronzeville Pegasus Players present David Barr's look at the spirit and ancestry of this south side neighborhood, as seen through the eyes of three generations of a family, thru Dec 16. $18, Athenaeum Thtr, 312 559-1212,

In Performance

****Aristophanes' The Acharnians...** Tripaway Thtr presents Karin Shook and Kerstin Broockmann's adaptation, in which Jesus and the Tooth Fairy help stop a war for oil in Canada. Thurs-Fri, 10:30 pm, Sun, 5 pm, thru Oct 7. $10, Bailiwick Arts Ctr, 773 878-7785

****Corpus Christi** Chgo premiere of Terrence McNally's gay retelling of the New Testament, featuring the Ulysses Thtr Ensemble. Part of Pride 2001, Bailiwick Rep's festival of LGBT thtr. Weds, 7:30 pm, Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 5:30 pm, thru Oct 14. $20-$25, Bailiwick Arts Ctr, 1229 W Belmont, 773 883-1090, www.bailiwick.org

****An Evening of Three One-Act Plays** TinFish Thtr presents William Butler Yeats' Cathleen Ni Houlihan, Oscar Wilde's A Florentine Tragedy, and A.A. Milne's The Ugly Duckling. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm, thru Nov 3. $14-$17.50, 4247 N. Lincoln, 773 549-1888

****A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** A vaudevillian romp, set in ancient Rome, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Fri-Sat, 7 pm, Sun, 12 pm, thru Oct 21. $35.50-$40, Stage Right Dinner Thtr, 630 595-2044

Brian Brooks in Dedication, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, at Dance Center of Columbia College, Oct. 18-20, 312-913-9773.

Boys Choir of Harlem at Chicago Theatre Oct. 5, 312-902-1500.

Chicago Theatre Co. presents Love Child, about teen moms at a parenting workshop, 773-493-0901, thru Dec. 30. Pictured, Sonya Evans, Samara Smith, Mashari Bain, Markietha Singleton.

****Going** Amy Ludwig directs this dark comedy that poses the question: What can we accomplish while captive in our cars? Part of the 2001 Rhinoceros Theater Festival. Fri, 9 pm, thru Sept 28. $10, Lunar Cabaret, 773 327-6666

****Here Come the Famous Brothers** New comedy-bluegrass-musical Royal George Thtr, 1641 N Halsted, 312 988-9000

****Histrionics: Four Plays by Women on Psychology, Sex, and General Madness** Four one-acts examine the place women have played in the world of psychiatry and psychology, presented by Stockyards Thtr Project. Fri-Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 7 pm, thru Sept 30. $12-$15, Heartland Studio Thtr, 7016 N Glenwood, 773 3775001

BBBB The Jackie Wilson Story (My Heart is Crying, Crying...) The rise and fall the singer who took us "Higher and Higher". Fri-Sat, 8 pm, and Sun, 3 pm, open run. $30, Black Ensemble Thtr, 4520 N Beacon, 773 769-4451

**** Late Nite Catechism** Royal George Thtr, 1641 N Halsted, 312 988-9000

BBBB Love Child Teenage mothers ShaWanda, DaWanda, TaWanda and LaWanda meet on their first days at a no-holds-barred parenting workshop in Luther Goins' biting comedy/drama about the cycle of teenage pregnancy and illiteracy. Chicago Thtr Co, 773 493-5360

****Love Ghetto: A One-Act Festival for Women** A diverse collection of one-acts and performance pieces, written by David-Matthew Barnes. Mon-Wed, 8 pm, thru Oct 3. $10, Dorothy Nickle Performing Arts Company, 773 529-4215

BBBBUnder Your Spell, A Tribute to Phyllis Hyman A musical journey of songs where Dinah, Billie, Sarah, Sam and Nat meet Phyllis. Fri-Sat, 7:30 pm, Sun, 4 pm, thru Sept 30. $20-$35, Legacy Cultural, 12952 S Western, Blue Island, 708 239-0285

DANCE

BBBB**Oct 13: Joel Hall Dancers Benefit 2001** Respectfully Yours, a benefit performance gala featuring a world premiere dance by Joel Hall and the world premiere of JHD 1511, Joel Hall's new youth performing company. Masters of Ceremony for the evening are Jessica Halem and Living Single's T.C. Carson. 7:30 pm, tonight only, $75-$125, Park West, 322 W Armitage, 773 293-0900, www.joelhall.com

BBBBOct 18: Deeply Rooted Dance Thtr Deeply Rooted presents innovative new work, steeped in the African-American tradition of dance, music and storytelling. On the program will be new and updated works by co-artistic directors Kevin Iega Jeff and Gary Abbott. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm, thru Oct 20. $20, The Dance Center, Columbia College, 312 344-8300

BBBBOct 26: Dance Africa 2001: Ancient Traditions: Urban Reflections This year's event features the traditional dance and music of Uganda's N'Dere, the African dance en pointe of Atlanta's The Ballethnic Dance Co and the drumming/dance/music/song/story experience of Baltimore's Sankofa Dance Thtr. Joining them will be five Chicago spoken word artists, who will provide a bridge between dance and storytelling. Fri, 8 pm, Sat, 2 & 8 pm, Sun, 2 pm, thru Oct 28. $20-$30, Auditorium Thtr, 50 E. Congress, 312 922-2110

ART/PHOTO

BBBBCatherine Edelman The Golden Age of Jazz, William Gottlieb's 1940s photos of jazz legends, thru Oct 6. 300 W Superior, 312 266-2350, www.edelmangallery.com

****Dix Art Mix** Anything But Flat, new works by Thom Frerk, Susan Froleckstein, Emily Gould and Greg Kaiser, thru Oct 15. 2068 N Leavitt, 773 384-5142, www.fota.com

BBBBVVVVField Museum Celebración 2001, the Field's annual festival of Latin American culture, Oct 4-7. Julie Taymor: Playing With Fire shows the evolution of the director/designer's work, thru Nov 4. In Her Hands, thru Jan 13. Cleopatra of Egypt: From History to Myth, thru March 3. Cheyenne Visions, thru March 31. 1400 S Lake Shore, 312 922-9410, www.fieldmuseum.org

BBBBVVVVFourth World Artisans The Crossroads: an exhibition of Voudou banners, cut metal and wood sculptures honoring Gede, the Haitian spirit of the dead; also etchings by Mexican artist Nicolas de Jesus commemorating Dia de los Muertos. Oct 26 thru Nov 25, opening reception Fri, Oct 26, 5:30-8:30 pm. 3440 N Southport, 773 404-5200

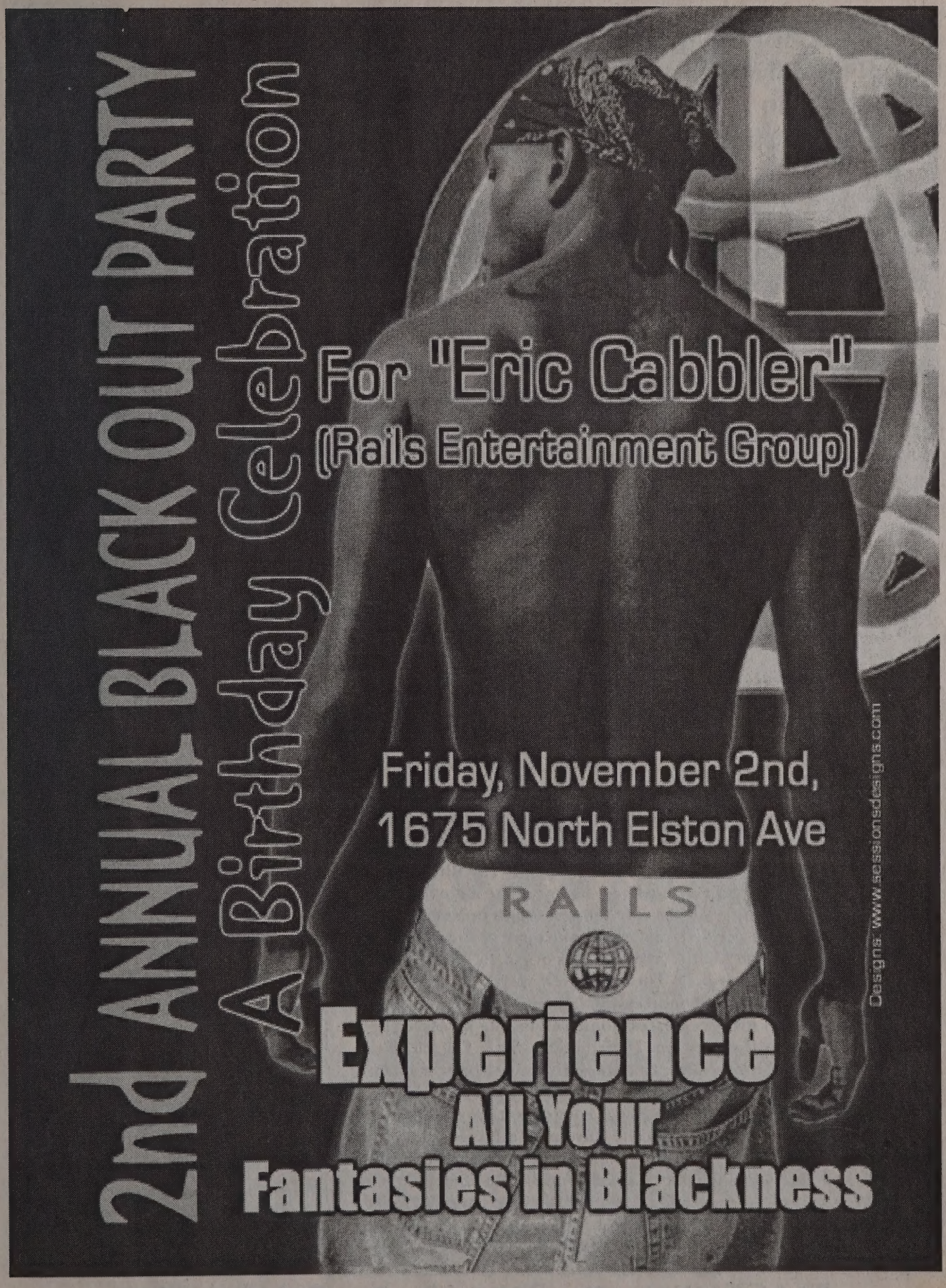
BBBBVVVV**Gallery 312** 3 Acres on the Lake: DuSable Park Proposal Project, a public art project initiated by Laurie Palmer that presents 60 visionary ideas for how to use a piece of public land, thru Oct 19. 312 N May, 312 942-2500, www.artic.edu/~apalme

BBBB**Museum of Contemporary Art** The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa 1945-1994, thru Dec 30. Panel discussion with African artists about African modernism and artistic identity in a global world, Tues, Oct 9, 6 pm. Carla Arocha: Hide, thru April 2002. Also, a farmer's market every Tuesday on the MCA's front plaza 11 am-7 pm thru Oct 16. 220 E Chicago, 312 280-2660 or www.mcachicago.org

BBBBNicole New paintings by Nicole Caplain and Jewel O'Neal and works by master Shona sculptors, thru Oct 6. 230 W Huron, 312 787-7716

BBBBSouth Side Community Art Center My Fabulous Ghetto: A Painted Experience by Rhonda Lewis, thru Oct 7. 3831 S Michigan, 773 373-1026

****Woman Made** Import Export, a group exhibition juried by Fujiko Isomura, thru Oct 4. Returning to Zero, large-scale woodblock prints by Ayu Tomikawa, thru Oct 4. 1900 S Prairie, 312 328-0038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The Rails Are Doin' It Again, But in 'Da 'Hood on Wednesday Nights

by Lester Davis

The Rails Entertainment Group (Kendall Beatty, Eric Cabbler, and Bernard Johnson) exploded in Chicago July 3, 1998 with "The Feast." This party had three floors of continuous, non-stop music mixed by Steve Mystro of WGCI, and Roberta and Oscar McMillian. The party was held on Independence Day Weekend, which became an extension of Chicago's gay pride week for the Black kids. This party drew children from Atlanta, Detroit, New York City, and Washington, D.C. to Chicago to help celebrate the holiday festivities.

Ever since then, the Rails has brought the words "gay life" back into Chicago's Black lesbigay community by hosting hot parties every Friday night at the Prop House, located at 1675 N. Elston Ave. Parties have also been hosted at Club XL on Jackson and Halsted Streets on Saturday nights. The Rails Entertainment Group also hosts parties in other cities, such as Detroit and D.C. These brothers do not just host excellent parties, with DJs frequently flown into Chicago, Detroit, and D.C. from other metropolitan cities like New York City and Atlanta; they also put money back into the communities that they entertain. They have been proud and major sponsors of several Black pride celebrations here in Chicago, and received the Greater Chicago Committee's Bayard Rustin Award for "Party of the Year."

Now these brothers are doing it again in Chicago on Wednesday nights in the 'hood, with the Flagpole Entertainment at the Taste Entertainment Center, located at 6331 S. Lowe. The Flagpole Entertainment is hosted by Ms. Ruff N'Stuff (known from the Biology Bar on Monday Nights), with Ms. Ola Mae Bangkok and hot-ass male erotic dancers showing off their bare assets. There are also performances by Erica Christian giving you Phyllis Hyman tunes, and special guest appearances by Amelia Black.

I had an opportunity one night to hang out in the dressing room of Chicago's Queens of Comedy: Ms. Ruff N' Stuff and Ms. Ola Mae Bangkok. Baby, let me tell you, these two are as raw as hell. Ms. Ruff N'Stuff was cutting up on Ms. Ola Mae Bangkok, calling her all kinds of late bitches, because Ola Mae had arrived late to the dressing room that night. The show had not yet started, but you could not tell the difference. Those girls, you can tell they love each other, because they were letting each other have it.

Ms. Ruff N'Stuff isn't new to this, but Ms. Ola Mae Bangkok is. I remember when Ms. Ruff N'Stuff pulled the kids together last year at Black Pride at Rainbow Beach. She was just funny then, but wait until she does her "Baby" routine on your ass. I was at the club one night when she came on stage (looking so fabulous with her handbag) looking for "Baby," her little pistol. I told you that Ms. Ruff N' Stuff is no joke, she'll let you have it with "Baby," her .22 pistol.

I asked Ms. Ola Mae Bangkok, heavy diva herself, where she came from. Ms. Ola Mae Bangkok told me that she is a world traveler from Peru, and had been in the United States for two years. I asked her what she likes most about this particular show on Wednesday nights. She replied, "I like the thickness and inches ... the rest we will leave to your imagination." She told me, "Baby, I live for that."

This party is definitely hilarious, hot, and off da motherfuckin' hook on Wednesday nights. Doors open at 10 p.m., showtime is 11:30 p.m., and the party is over at 4 a.m. There is secured parking available. You can explore their website at www.chocolatecity.com, where you will find Rails' current events, other urban cities' Black pride listings, and other Black gay publications' websites. All of this is to suit your partying connections and travel needs. Looking for something to do in Chicago on a Wednesday night? Slide down to the Flagpole, and have your dollars ready in your hand to tip the entertainment.

RHYTHM & BLUES FOUNDATION POSTPONES PIONEER AWARDS CEREMONY ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 4 AT THE APOLLO

The Rhythm & Blues Foundation announced that "The Rhythm and Blues Foundation, sharing the shock and sorrow of the nation and its friends around the world over the recent tragic events in New York and Washington, D.C., has decided on the postponement of the Pioneer Awards 2001." The 12th Awards ceremony was originally scheduled to take place Oct. 4 at The Apollo Theatre in New York.

This year's Pioneer Award honorees are: Lifetime Achievement Award: Al Green; Individual Artist Honorees: Fontella Bass, Big Jay McNeely, Dee Dee Sharp; Group Artist Honoree: The Emotions, Sly & The Family Stone Songwriter/Entrepreneur; Honorees: Holland/Dozier/Holland, Allen Toussaint; Legacy Tribute: Louis Jordan

Founded in 1988, The Rhythm & Blues Foundation provides emergency medical and other needed assistance to Rhythm and Blues music legends of the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The Foundation also promotes the educational outreach and historical and cultural preservation of Rhythm and Blues music through various grants and programs. The Foundation's Pioneer Awards ceremony honors legendary artists whose lifelong contributions have been seminal in the development of Rhythm and Blues music.

OCTOBER 31

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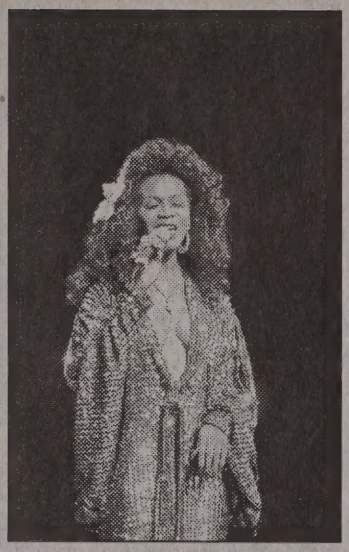
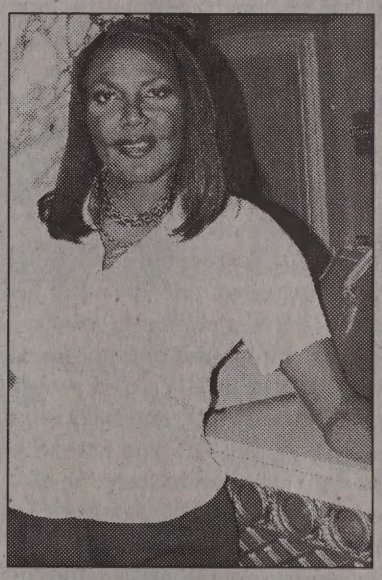
THE 2001 MISS CONTINENTAL WAS CROWNED LABOR DAY WEEK-END IN CHICAGO. 2000 WINNER DANIELLE HUNTER TURNED OVER HER CROWN TO CANDIS CAYNE. PICS BY ISRAEL WRIGHT

ABOVE, LEFT: Alexis Sherrington.
ABOVE, RIGHT: AMALIA BLACK.

BELOW, LEFT: At the show.
RIGHT: Sasha Valentino in her gown.





Wigstock Chicago was held Labor Day Weekend at the Chicago Theatre, sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. TOP, from left: Baton Girlz, Kevin Aviance and Meisha. MIDDLE: Shaquida, Sweet Pussy Pauline and Sade. BELOW: Friends gather; Lady Chabliss. Pics by Israel Wright and Sukie

GUEST EDITORIAL

Walking and Running for AIDS

by Sanford E. Gaylord

No place in the world that has reported HIV can say that its spread has stopped, only slowed. There are 15,000 new infections daily. While you're reading this, someone in the world is being infected. Thirty-six million people globally are living with HIV/AIDS. Nearly 50% of that number is comprised of women. In June it was reported that an estimated one in three same-gender-loving men of African decent were living with HIV. By the year 2000, most people in the large urban cities of the United States could say that they know someone affected by or have met someone that is living with HIV or AIDS.

This past June, the world was reminded of the 20th anniversary of the discovery of HIV. Just when some people thought that HIV was a manageable disease, we are informed that AIDS is the leading cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25-44. Something those of us who have been following this history of the virus know is that people of color and women have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS from its very discovery. This anniversary year has seen many people reenergize their efforts to continue to fight. For some, it has given them reason to try and make a difference in their families or communities. We were reminded that we couldn't become complacent about this disease. Current medical treatments are failing and causing horrific side effects. Resistant strains of the HIV virus have already been documented on both coasts of the United States. The reality is that HIV/AIDS is far from over.

On Sept. 23 at Chicago's Lakefront Museum Campus, the Chicago Run and Walk for AIDS was held. I had the honor of being one of three spokespersons for this year's event. I shared that honor with my partner Anthony M. King, RaeLewis-Thornton and Edward Negron.

This was the second time that I have participated in a Walk for AIDS in an effort to raise awareness and needed funds for HIV/AIDS. October of 2000, I participated in the first annual Southern Illinois AIDS Walk hosted by the Southern Illinois Regional Effort for AIDS (SIREA), which was held in Carbondale, Ill. My partner Anthony served as a board member and helped organize the event. I must admit that before I went, my thoughts were that it would've been too emotional of an experience for me. It scared me to think of all of the old wounds it would reopen simply by being part of the experience.

I was amazed in attending last year's Walk in Carbondale that it was an uplifting and rejuvenating experience. Being surrounded by other people that shared a passion to make a difference in the lives of other human beings affected by HIV/AIDS is almost indescribable, especially when you're living with HIV and have witnessed the devastation since the disease was discovered.

Although there has been bad press in the past about the AIDS Walks that have been held here in Chicago, things have definitely changed over the past couple of years. Chicago's Run & Walk for AIDS is owned and operated by the management firm of Chicago Special Event Management. The event's proceeds after administrative costs will be used to fund a variety of HIV/AIDS projects and services through The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and its long-established grant-making program. Researching the history of AFC is what helped make my decision to be a part of this year's Run and Walk for AIDS including several conversations with David Munar, AFC Associate Director of Policy and Communications.

AFC is the largest source of philanthropic support for AIDS programs in the Midwest and has provided nearly $11 million to support AIDS care, prevention, education and advocacy projects in the Chicago metropolitan area. AFC has been a provider of crucial funding to several Community-Based Organizations that serve and are run by people of color in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including the transgender component of our community which is often over looked, if not ignored!

With the ever-constant financial cuts in funding for HIV/AIDS through the federal government, coupled with the Bush Administration's action in not providing any additional Ryan White funds, we must help support efforts against AIDS with financial contributions in order to sustain and expand desperately needed prevention and care services. This can be done by either walking or donating to the Chicago Run and Walk for AIDS.

We've seen with the making of the 20th anniversary of HIV/AIDS that we must come together as a community. We must talk to one another about HIV/AIDS, especially to our youth. We must work together to raise awareness.

SOUTH AFRICANS DEMAND PENSION RIGHTS

South Africa's Lesbian and Gay Equality Project (LGEP) is suing Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and the state pension funds on behalf of gays who have been denied a deceased partner's pension.

The case could affect up to 100,000 gay/lesbian members of the Government Employees Pension Fund and the Associated Institutions Pension Fund.

"Their lack of change smacks of typical old-guard disrespect for the law, for the constitution and for the people," said LGEP's Evert Knoesen.

When apartheid ended, South Africa became the first country to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation via its constitution.

— Rex Wockner

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, Oct. 13: Tara Ayres

Deidre McCalla

Jazz vocalist Tara Ayres returns to the coffee house for an evening of soft and smooth music that will titillate your heart and soul. She comes to us from Madison, WI where she is both activist, producer and performer. If you enjoy jazz singing at its finest, this is the place and the night to be.

Saturday, Nov. 10: Deidre McCalla

Always inspiring, fun and full of stories, Deidre McCalla, singer, songwriter, and guitarist returns to Mountain Moving.

Saturday, Dec. 1: Ferron

Help us celebrate the holidays and Ferron. She will probably do some old, some new songs, including her newest release, "Inside Out" sassy renditions of really great classics to dance, laugh and sing along to.

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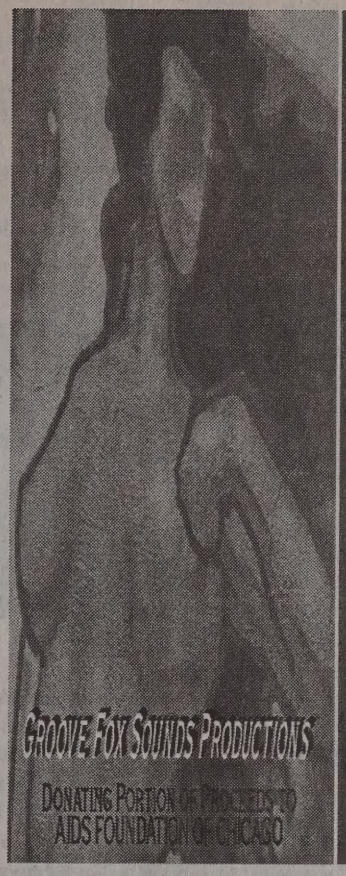

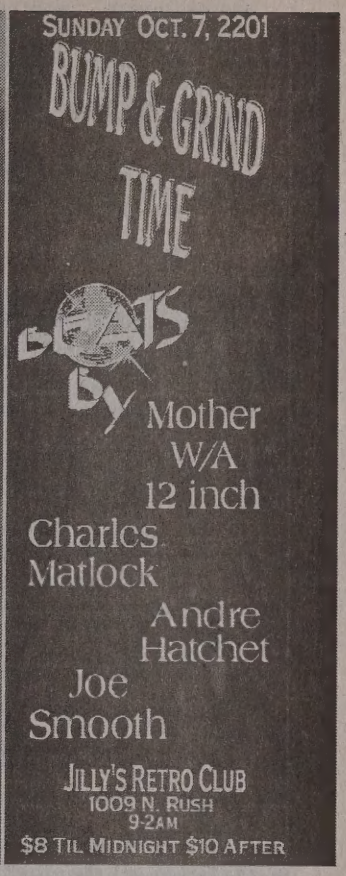

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Dreaming of Love: An Interview with Lesbian Musician Karen Ramirez

Karen Ramirez's album Distant Dreams is being released on MCA in September.

by Gregg Shapiro

British-born, out lesbian singer/songwriter Karen Ramirez ruled the dance charts in 1999 with the dance mix of her song "Looking For Love." Ramirez is much more than just a dance artist, something that she makes perfectly clear on Distant Dreams (MCA), her major-label debut. The bossa-nova beats of the opening number, "Troubled Girl," reminded me of Sergio Mendez and Ramirez's vocals were reminiscent of Brazil '66's lead vocalist Lani Hall. "More Than Words Can Say" and "Lies," bring Ramirez inside with their drum'n bass and techno dance-floor rhythms, respectively. The non-dance mix of "Looking For Live," gives the song a whole other identity, and the retro soul vibe reaches its peak on "People Make The World Go Round."

The wonderful thing about Distant Dreams is that it gives Ramirez the opportunity to demonstrate that she can hold her own among the dance club divas, while going head to head with new soul sirens such as India.Arie, Macy Gray and Alicia Keys.

Gregg Shapiro: Would you please tell me about how it feels to have your album Distant Dreams, which was released in Europe in 1999, being given a second chance by having a domestic release in the United States?

Karen Ramirez: I think it's really fantastic. It's really a good opportunity for me. I was a little bit disappointed that it wasn't released in America before, so I'm finally getting that chance. I'm quite excited about it.

GS: Do you know why it wasn't released in the states before?

KR: The label that I'm with here (in Europe) is Mercury Records. The branch of Polygram in America, at the time, I think there were some changes going on—my A&R guy was changed, or something like that.

GS: How involved were you in the song writing process of the material on Distant Dreams?

KR: I wrote all the lyrics and all the cut lines, all the melodies and stuff. The guys that I wrote with are called Souled Out. They are three Italian guys from South Italy, from Naples. They produced it, but I had a lot of say in the music as well.

Karen Ramirez

GS: You do a couple of wonderful cover tunes—"Looking For Love" by Ben Watt and Tracy Thorn (of Everything But The Girl) and Bell and Creed's "People Make The World Go Round." Can you tell me about why you chose to cover those two songs?

KR: The "Looking For Love" thing was quite easy. My producer sent me a tape of a bunch of songs on a cassette and I chose that song because it's such a fantastic song. I completely fell in love with that song. The chord changes and the melody line are both fantastic. And "People Make the World Go Round" is also another fantastic song. So I just fell in love with those songs, really.

GS: Who would you site as the biggest influences on your singing style?

KR: The biggest influences? (pauses) It's really hard to say. My influences go back to the jazz era: Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald and Astrid Gilberto, as well. A lot of people—Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder. And I wouldn't say that there's been one person that's been my biggest influence. I've had a lot of influences.

GS: As someone working in the soul singer realm, what do you think of the interest in the new generation of female soul singers?

KR: I think it's fantastic. There's a lot of really good stuff out there, a lot of really good female singer/songwriters —especially Lauryn Hill, whom I really love a lot. I think there's always been fantastic singer/songwriters: people like Joni Mitchell and Rickie Lee Jones, are also people that I admire. I'm not sure if there's a sort of revival. I just think there's just a lot of good stuff now happening.

GS: You definitely scored some points with me by mentioning Joni Mitchell.

KR: Oh, yes. She's like my favorite.

GS: Could you ever imagine yourself relocating to the States, and if so, where would you most like to live?

KR: I think New York. I'd come right now and live in New York.

GS: Good choice. Have you begun working on your next album, and if so, what can you tell me about it?

KR: Yeah, I'm working on my next album right now. I'm currently writing lyrics and stuff. I work with my guitar—I sit down with my guitar and get songs together, then I go to the studio and finish them off. I'm working with some producers called Manna Productions. These guys are quite hot right now in the U.K. because they produced a guy named Finley Quaye whose done really well.

GS: Finley Quaye is Tricky's nephew.

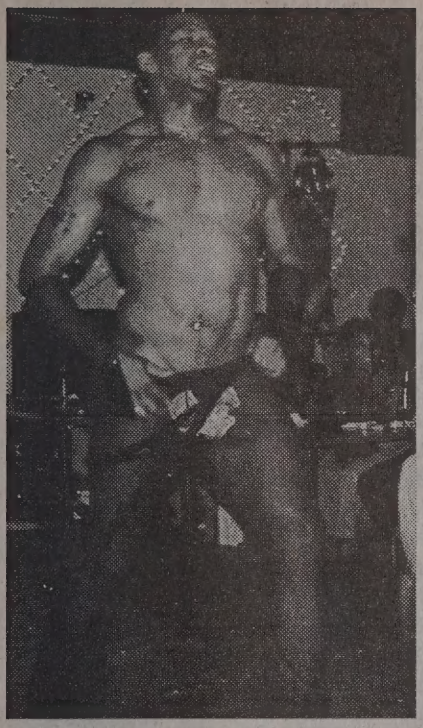
KR: Yes, that's right. I'm working with them. It's slightly moving a little more in the acoustic direction. Just a little bit more in the singer/songwriter direction.

GS: Do you think that there is more or less stigma attached to being an out lesbian in the musical genre in which you work than there is for an out gay man?

KR: That's a good question. I think there's a lot more gay males that are out in the industry than women. So people are more accustomed to hearing a gay man in the music business. That's my impression. There's much less gay women musicians. I can count them on my hand—there's probably about four out, lesbian musicians. So I don't know if there's a stigma. I think there's just not very many. Maybe there are many, but they're not out.

GS: Are you currently involved in a romantic relationship, and if so, is it something difficult or easy to maintain as an artist and someone who is in the public eye?

KR: I am in a relationship now. I don't find it difficult to maintain because I try to separate my private life from my musician's life.



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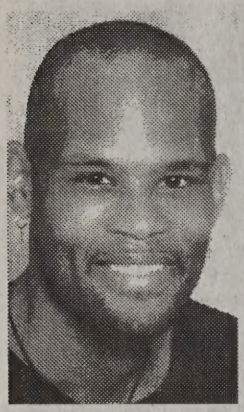
Underground Techniques

by DJ Harry T

Thank you to all who all came down to Nocturnal nightclub Labor Day Weekend to party like a "Rock Star!"



Hundreds of beautiful women and men delighted themselves to the tunes of your's truly and my friend, DJ Leo Traverso of Taste Da' Flavour Collective. Thanks goes to Julie Mosier and Kathleen Ulm of ChixMix Productions for a spectacular job of bringing this event together and special thanks to Nocturnal manager Mike and his staff for making this event happen.

CD Releases worth listening to:

Mixed Illusions, Soulstice (OM Records), Reconstructed Soul, Naked Music NYC (OM Records)

After receiving these gems in the mail, I immediately began dancing and took my mind off the housework which I planned. Just when you thought summer was over, the smooth vocals of Gina Rene in her "Fall Into You," "Tenderly" embrace you "Lovely" with a touch of downtempo, hip-hop, jazz and funky, soulful house.

Reconstructed Soul takes tracks from their original 1998 release of the same name, remixes it and gives it an uplifting and sensual feel with plenty of soul. With an all-star line up of remixers such as Miguel Migs on "If I Fall" and King Kooba on "It's Love," featuring the smooth vocals of Ada Dyer.

Base Bar Ibiza, Hed Kandi. From the people who started the Disco Kandi & Nu Cool compilations, comes their newest collection full of 12" mixes on 2xCD's. All the massive club hits are here that have club floors on fire. "I Feel Loved" by Depeche Mode featuring the much talked about Danny Tenaglia Labour of Love Mix, "What I Say" by Kaskade, "Muzikizum" by X-Press 2 and Kings of Tomorrow gets the remix treatment by none other than DT again with this summer's monster smash, "Finally," featuring vocalist Julie McKnight.

Inspirations, Mateo and Matos (Glasglow Underground)

It's been a while since I've heard anything from these NuYoricans, since their last release, The Many Shades of Mateo & Matos. Thus the turntable veterans have returned with another fine mix of dub and vocal house. Highlights include "Voices In Los Angeles" by Josma, "Dreams" by Soul Vision and "Sunshine" by Black Latin Soul.

Other CD of recommended Listening:

DJ Snowboy presents The Return of the Hi-Hat: Essential Cuban, Brazilian Hard Bop and Fusion (Ocho). A Great compilation of jazz, with some traditional appeal and hip-shaking appeal, featuring Afro Cuban Jazz Project, Alfredo De La Fe and McCoy Tyner.

MG 4, Mondo Grosso (Epic): Smooth, chill-out jazz with downtempo appeal, featuring guest vocals by N'dea Davenport on "Show Me Your Love" and Amel Larrieux on "Now You Know Better."

Ritual Of The, Molemen (Molemen Recordings). Chicago's very own underground hip-hop collective of DJ's and MC's release their second full-length CD, featuring "Not Impressed," "Put Your Quarter Up" and "Reign," being my personal favorite.

12" single releases worth putting the needle to:

"I'll Be Waiting" by Full Intention featuring Shena "Love's On Time" by Barbara Tucker "Tudo Lindo" by AWA Band

"Balmes (A Better Life)," by Ian Pooley

DJ Harry T Top 5

1. "Loving You" Cevin Fisher
2. "Jus 1 Kiss" Basement Jaxx
3. "Fatal Fatal" DJ Pippi presents Pasion Flamenca
4. "Guitarra G" G-club presents Banda Sonora
5. "Bumpin' and Jumpin'" Kim English

Aaliyah Dana Haughton: Our fallen angel on the rise

It hit me very oddly to hear the news from my roommate and CNN about the death of R&B artist, Aaliyah. Here I was at home on a Saturday evening reading the cover story about her in my August issue of Mixmag, catching up on some well-deserved reading to be devastated that she was like many others, gone too soon. So full of life, the potential of such a young talent has left a small, but large impact on many of the people she has touched through her music both personal and public.

Her career began at the young age of 15, working with Chicago's own R. Kelly with her debut Age Ain't Nothing But A Number, in 1994. Continuing to hone her craft, she dropped her second release, One In A Million, in 1996, collaborating with producers Timbaland and Missy Elliott. As most music artists do, she went on to star in Warner Brothers 2000 release of Romeo Must Die, starring Jet Li , Delroy Lindo and DMX; and securing a hit tune on the soundtrack, "Try Again."

Working hard on her craft, she released her self-titled debut this year, Aaliyah, with the Timbaland-produced, "We Need A Resolution." Continuing to expand her horizons, she went to star in the soon-to-be-released Queen Of The Damed, based on the Anne Rice novel, playing the role of Queen Akasha and scheduled to appear in two sequels to 1999's blockbuster, The Matrix, which starred Keanu Reaves.

Sadly, this beloved songstress was killed in a plane crash on Aug. 25, along with eight others just after take-off in the Bahamas, where she was wrapping up work on her next music video, "Rock The Boat," directed by Hype Williams.

Heaven, you've gained an angel
Just beginning to grow
The world was just getting to know
The wondrous love of God's amazing gift.
Heaven, you've gained a songbird
Whose voice will forever linger in our minds,
Yet within our heart, always be our 'baby girl.'
Truly "One In A Million."

Aaliyah Dana Haughton: Jan. 16, 1979-Aug. 25, 2001

Leather Life
AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

by Cain Berlinger

It was a great summer for the leather community with the introduction of new titles (congratulations Ms. World and the new IMsL!!). The proliferation of new clubs and the coming together of old and new factions proved that they/we CAN work together for a common cause. And while clubs got together as a group and created some of the best learning and fun venues of the year, there still remained one glaring inconsistency—lack of individual support and unpleasantness aimed at individuals within our own.

As clubs and organizations become more and more public, seeking public support through function attendance and donations, many prospects are looking closer into the workings of such organizations. Through this public scrutiny a lot of the inconsistencies are beginning to make themselves more public, and learning that maybe all is not well in the Camelot of "brotherhood."

Times were when a member could count on support from his brothers even if they disagreed with what he said or did. Censure was done within the group and not by a handful of spiteful individuals whose egos had grown rich with uninformed public adulation, a position or a title. And this censure was private, not aired over the Internet and gossip in bars. As the song goes, when you're a Jet "you got brothers around you're a family man"! These days the 'family ' has become as dysfunctional as any other and the only support is now found in cliques that go against the entire reason for clubs and organizations in the first place. Even the 'Sopranos' know the meaning of loyalty. When you see a brother wearing club colors in another town or bar, step up and introduce yourself, he's family.

We can't ever hope to gain political ground as long as there are personal agendas that occupy our time and resources and bring our organizations and clubs into moral question. If a man can't be supportive of his brothers then he himself should not expect to be supported. In the most violent of street gangs, a brother is a brother is a brother, who can get and give his support in every way he can because when one achieves, the whole group achieves. If we can not love each other unconditionally, then who will? The leather community might do well to follow some of the example of street gangs in the way they relate to each other. We aren't going to be compatible with everyone, but we can show and give

him or her the respect that they expected when they were welcomed into the club or organization to start with.

If we are to thrive as a community we have to demonstrate to each other and those watching us, the love and support and brotherhood that we promised our members when they became a part of our 'family.' We could increase our number tenfold, and isn't that part of winning the 'us' against 'them' war?

Check out my site www.mrcain.com
Writercain@aol.com

GURRRLology

LESBIAN WEDDINGS

by Vicky Nabors

Weddings are normally scary for me! But I was excited to attend a lesbian wedding in Detroit last weekend; the bride was my cousin. She was radiant in a white gown as was her dashing groom who wore a white tux. Roughly 100 dapper lesbians and gays gathered to salute and support the couple. My cousin and her partner seem be a popular couple—I felt honored, even though I'm blood related, to be one of the chosen to witness their vows.

After the ceremony, we were served dinner, enjoyed insightful conversation, and danced the evening away with the happy couple. My partner and I were quite surprised to learn that most of the couples at our table had been together for some 10 to 20 years. Wow! What an accomplishment! Oh to be forever embraced in the magical euphoria of being in love!

Years ago, I refused to subscribe to the notion of a lesbian or gay wedding because I didn't consider it to be "real!" As a conservative young adult, my own sense of logical reasoning prevented me from embracing a fairytale idea that two women or two men could be united in marriage. It just "Did Not Compute" because it wasn't legal! Fortunately, as my life evolved, so did my views on this issue. More importantly, I learned that words have no meaning until we assign meaning to them. I, like most folks, was programmed to associate an act of marriage to a male/female union. Example: say the word "marriage" to yourself and then lock onto the first thoughts that come to mind. I know some of you hardcore dykes will say, women, women, and women! However, the majority of you probably thought of a man and a woman first and then transferred those thoughts to two women. While others might have kept it a man/woman thang exclusively! I know many lesbos who think same-sex marriage is a dumb idea—they see it as a joke! I too used to be a member of that club. But, many moons ago I was forced to cancel my membership when I fell in love, and my partner insisted we get married. But how could I do something that I didn't believe in? That's when I finally opened my eyes and acknowledged to myself that true love has no gender—it was the term—marriage—that was causing my problem. Yes, the term marriage does symbolize the coming together of two, but it also connotes male and female unions in my mind. So, for my own comfort, I decided to call it a "commitment ceremony" instead of a wedding ceremony—"That Did Compute!"

Though my issue over naming and defining human acts such as marriage unions may be saying a lot of something about nothing, in the long run, it's helped me to break down and process a concept that directly affects me. It's important that I'm able to understand and thus accept parts of my life that are different from those that exist in the straight world. For to not understand would mean that I become a follower of those in power instead of a leader of my own destiny.

I enjoyed the emotions that I felt during the couple's day of love and hope that one day I too am able to experience that level of comfort in a relationship. Unfortunately, I've never felt that any of my past relationships were healthy enough to consider committing myself to them for life! Even though they consisted of love, there was also distrust, confusion, power struggles, and sometimes pain, and I didn't really care for the flavor of those mixtures.

Currently, I'm into a new, uniquely different, nine-month relationship and she insists that she's "The One!" She's an awesome individual, but I understand how difficult the Gemini in me can be! Still, she insists that she can handle me … maybe so, she's a Sagittarius and time will tell! That "commitment for life thing" should be taken seriously because it's not nice to play with a gurl's emotions … someone could get hurt!

Here's to Nina and Cynthia—May God Bless!

Send replies to vickynabors@aol.com

The Aftermath of 911

reflections by C.C. Carter

Day I

The alarm goes off as usual. You roll over to see 7:35 a.m. blaring from the digital clock. You're still tired from the night before so lie back down for a minute, getting up at eight still won't make you late. You turn the TV on to listen for the weather while you fake snoozing, when 10 minutes later you hear, "We interrupt this dream ... program for a special news report. The World Trade Center in New York is on fire. Apparently a plane has flown into the North Tower."

You think, "Man I'm glad I moved from there, it's always something." Nonetheless you reach for the phone, never once looking at the TV to see the magnitude of the crash, then unconsciously dial 10 numbers, get the secretary, and ask to speak to your mother.

"Ma, what's wrong with you all up there. Doesn't anyone know how to fly a plane these days? I hope nobody is hurt."

"What are you talking about?" she doesn't have a clue, having already been at work for 40 minutes.

"Ma, some plane flew into the World Trade—wait," ... Listen to the newscaster describe it as an attack, similar to the 1993 bombing. You roll back over to face the TV, open your eyes to see fire from the middle of the building. "Ma, they said it's an attack like before."

"Oh my God, Turn on the TV," she yells to the people in her office. "You OK?"

"Yeah, we're fine over here"

"Where's dad?"

"You know him, if he doesn't have to stay over for a meeting, he comes home. He came from Boston last night."

"Ok, I'll call you back." Hang up the phone. It rings again immediately. Your friend asks you if you're watching.

"Yeah, this is some sh, Oh God did you see that? Another plane!!" You turn up the volume on the TV.

Hear the reporter in panic say, "Oh, my God, Oh, my God, it appears that a second plane has just crashed into the other tower of the World Trade Center.

"This is not an accident. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, New York is under attack."

Hear yourself tell your friend, "I'll call you back." Push off, then phone, then dial the same 10 numbers, "All circuits are busy ... . " Push off then phone then dial 10 more numbers, "Due to an emergency in the New York area..." Push off then phone then dial ...

"Hello."

"Marie, what's going on."

"I don't know, they're evacuating everything. I have to call you back, everybody is down in that area." "I can't reach Ma, I talked to her before, but I can't get through now." "I got it, I'll call you back, bye." "Bye." Push off, phone rings back.

"You OK?" "No." "Your parents?"

"I think so." phone clicks.

"You OK?" "No." "What about your folks?" "I think they're fine. I'll call you back, somebody's on the other line." Push phone, "Hello," phone clicks, "I'll call you back" Push phone, "Hello."

"It's Marie"

"You OK?"

"Yeah, Anita's fine, Salimah's fine, Elaine didn't go to work today, Diana got out, Michelle is taking pictures, and we can't find April, but Linda's fine."

"You can't find April, what floor was she on?" "24." "Oh no, no, she's going to be fine—Oh Sh ... they just hit the Pentagon." "Hell no."

"Did you get ma"

"Nothing but cell phones are working, and they're about to stop too." Phone clicks, "I'll call you back—let me know about April." Push phone, "Babe, don't go to your meeting today." "I'm not, I've got to find some people, I talked to ma but I don't know about my dad."

"It'll be OK, but you know if they hit the Pentagon and the World Trade, the Dirksen, Sears Tower and all of those buildings here are next. They already closed the Mart. I'm coming over."

"No, I'm fine, you stay at work," phone clicks, "I'll call you back." Push phone, "We found Derrick, he's fine, no April." "OK, what about ma? I didn't know Derrick was missing too." "Can't get through. Yeah he was." Phone clicks, "I'll call you back." And this becomes the tag game you play for the rest of the night.

Day II

Your fingers and your heart hurt because you don't know and can't get through to find out. The phone rings at seven, Dad's voice on one receiver and mom's on the other, "We've been trying to call you all night. We're both OK."

You breathe deep, until you remember April is still missing. Tell your parents you love them, and yes, you'll be home for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and anything else that might come in between or before. Dad says, "Welcome to the real world darling, and oh, you can bring your friend home with you if you want."

Push off. Hit volume. Watch the news special, The Faces of America. You watch for a whole 20 minutes before you see a face of color, a woman of color, but no obvious LGBT person at all, except the woman electrician who you think could be gay but didn't say it, who worked for the World Trade Center for 15 years and survived by falling to the sub-basement. Phone rings. Push phone, hear ... .

"Hey, we still can't find April. Linda's been to most of the hospitals, but because she's not the next of kin they won't let her near any of the patients."

"Well, did she tell them that she IS April's next of kin? What's that about?"

"I know, who's gonna care about her looking for her lover with all those high-powered executives missing?"

"Call me back, I think I'm sick."

You hit volume on the remote and continue to watch the faces of America. You watch media person after interviewer talk to people holding pictures of missing loved ones, and wonder if anyone is going to stop Linda and ask her to tell her story—a Latin femme, looking for her Black Butch Stockbroker (not legally recognized in this country) wife.

Then you think about the number of untold stories that will be lost when documentaries, movies of the week, motion pictures, biography channels and any other venue that will portray the loss of human life during this attack in some sort of artistic format start to emerge.

You think about Anna Deveare Smith and the interviews she conducted for her Broadway plays, Fires in the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Other Identities, and Twilight: Los Angeles 1992. You think about yourself as a writer, and what it means to call yourself that. Should you even delve into this to try to recreate memory of stories untold told and probably would never have been stories at all if this didn't happen. And who do you think you are that you can even attempt this feat. But nonetheless, you are hurting to the point of throwing up every 10 minutes, so this is obviously a calling you can't control. So you send an all call to your artist and writer friends, and ask them to start sending you their stories. This is an event that can't go undocumented and the people viewing the Faces of America need to know the whole spectrum of lives lost.

The phone rings, push phone...

"Hey, they found April, but now we're missing two others." "That's OK, I'll be home this weekend. Make sure Linda and April are around. I need to talk to them."

What's The '411'

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Advice with an attitude!

Altered States

"Leaving behind nights of terror and fear, I rise
Into a daybreak that is wondrously clear, I rise. . ."

— Maya Angelou

In the horrific terrorism aftermath unleashed upon our country, many Americans have shared that these acts occurred without warning. My question is: Did it? Have we, Americans, become complacent, possibly arrogant, believing that terrorism would always elude us?

I know it is quite a question to ask ourselves in this time of grief and pain. I certainly do not mean any disrespect, but it is a question I must pose. After all, Webster's Dictionary defines terrorism as "a systematic use of terror and intimidation especially in order to coerce."

Within the past decade, Americans bore witness to a steady escalation of terrorist acts upon our citizens: the Sudan U.S. Embassy, USS Cole, the initial World Trade Center attacks, etc. In short, hundreds of American lives had been shattered by terrorism. Many Americans, including myself, watched in disbelief and clearly sympathized with the victims. However, after a couple weeks, Americans rescinded our sentiment and soon returned to our normal lives, forgetting all those despicable acts.

Yet, like so many life-altering moments in history, once again an unspeakable evil had been unleashed, but this time it struck in our own backyard. The date, Sept. 11, 2001, shall be etched in our souls forever, because it smashed this generation's shield of invincibility. This particular morn began just like any other for most Americans as they entered their offices to begin their workday. For myself, I was running late. I had been enjoying some much-needed rest. After pounding my snooze button several times, I stumbled out of my comfortable bed in a sleeper stupor and grabbed the remote control across my bedroom. As the television image materialized, stood the New York World Trade Center (WTC) North Twin Tower engulfed in a pillar of smoke. I thought to myself, "I do not feel like watching Independence Day once again!" So, I quickly excused myself to my bed but continued to watch the television. As the event quickly unraveled, I noticed a 757 commercial jetliner jackknifed into the WTC's south tower and exploded into a huge fireball. I scratched my head and thought, "I don't remember this part in the movie." New Yorkers shrieked in horror as news commentators offered similar responses. Suddenly, President Bush appeared and rendered an official announcement. I screamed, "OH MY GOD!! This is not a movie. We are being attacked!!"

For the next several hours, I was suspended in dismay as four hijacked jets were used as flying weapons of mass destruction. The New York World Trade Center as well as the Pentagon has been bombed. The WTC had been reduced to a pile of smoldering rubble as billows of ash and soot engulfed the New York Financial District. The Pentagon appeared as if it had been in an earthquake when one jet struck into its structural ring. A fourth jet had been heading to Washington, D.C., possibly targeting the White House, but never made it. It crashed upon the Pittsburgh outskirts. And now, thousands of civilian lives have potentially perished upon American soil.

The following two days, I remained in my home dumbfounded and glued to my sofa, watching the news as my sole source of information. I cried and screamed, asking why? How could this evil happen? Furthermore, is this just the beginning? Are there any more pending attacks? My television set failed to answer my questions, so I continued to sob. However, by the week's end, I had cried myself dry. The simple truth then dawned upon me. We may never fully comprehend why this national tragedy occurred. The fact remains that we as a nation have been forever changed. Yet armed with sheer determination and dignity, Americans stepped up to the challenge and acted unselfishly, offering a helping head to New York and Washington neighbors in anyway we could: assisting in rescuing and recovery efforts, donating blood, clothing, food and money as well as participating in candlelight vigils.

Clearly, the terrorists operated on the assumption that by destroying our national landmarks fueled by an appetite of hate and resentment, they could break our faith. Sorry to disappoint but they have only awakened a sleeping giant. Just like a phoenix, America has risen from the ashes more determined, defiant, and stronger than ever. By crowning our good with brotherhood, we can show the world that our hardships can build character. But, we must not forget our Arab and Middle Eastern brothers and sisters. In our outrage, we must not misplace our anger upon them. Equally important, I hope our leaders take the essential time to locate the perpetrators before retaliating in any fashion.

Moreover, it is quite possible that in these past catastrophic moments, God has shed his grace upon thee. After all, Americans remember and realize that time is not forever and waits for no one. This is our wake-up call. Now, we grasp our flags with more pride, sing our national anthems with more intent, and hug our loved ones with more urgency. The attack serves as a reminder that we can live our lives with a bit more compassion, more purpose, and more vigor. And unlike any other time in history, America can and must allow her diversity to shine vibrantly. Together, we send a searing message to the world, proclaiming that we shall not buckle to coercion and this too shall pass.

Finally, if there is any lesson to be gained, it is that we Americans cannot afford the luxury of returning to a state of complacency. After all, in these United States every one of us has the power to be effective ambassadors of change. We see that a kind word can go a long way. And contrary to popular belief, prayer can change things. We may be shaken and altered but nonetheless still standing united.

Preston L. Shumaker, MSW,
Special Projects Coordinator,
Illinois Department of Public Health

Are We Listening?

by Donna Rose

Clearly, we in America have just received a serious wake-up call. Are we listening?

I'm considering the chain of events as we know them to be presently. How prepared are we in light of this most horrific event? Do any of us know of any such evacuation plan for the area in which you live? I sure don't. I am the daughter of a son of frontier people, and fortunately, they believe in self reliance, so I have my batteries, water-proof matches, candles, potable water, a means of defense, and a basement ... bomb shelter anyone?

The only things that seem clear are that the perpetrators are well-equipped in that a highly sophisticated plan was executed resulting in the interruption of life as we know it in this country in the space of four hours. Every major sector of society was/is impacted. Hospitals filled to capacity; emergency response teams overwhelmed; traffic interruptions in every mode of transport—air, land, rail; and telecommunications were scrambled.

The spin is on now to calm the financial/business institutions shut down ... hell, where will world trade be conducted now? Many major players among financiers were killed, and/or missing, in the rubble that was the World Trade Center—markets around the world are feeling the effects ... industry closed down; parents who wouldn't be picking up their children as planned.

The cunning, the planning that went into this elaborate plan makes me take note ... planes would be full of fuel for planned routes from Boston to Los Angeles; someone who knew how to take over the throttle of a jet and direct that aircraft to a different course, with the towers of the TWO as a final destination ... clearly not a run-of-the-mill car thief ... ..What means could anyone use to take over a plane with all of the security measures in place currently? A bomb? A gun? In Japan, someone could conceivably commit a crime with a knife, not here. But yes, here.

The unease that creeps into consciousness for me is that this could also be a well-oiled inside job. If nothing else, Timothy McVeigh should have taught us that. Hate is not the sole domain of Palestinians, as the media would have us believe. We do well with our own special blend of hate right here at home.

I, for one, am deeply concerned that the suspicions voiced about "Palestinians" has no real merit at this juncture. Those same suspicions could have just as well been directed at the Aryan Nation.

I'm still holding out for the rest of the story ... that jumpy hair-trigger posturing should be making us all shudder ... but that's just me and how I'm viewing it from the Black hand side

Wake-up Call

by Sherri Jackson

I woke up today, but tomorrow may not appear. I was awakened with phone calls, and the devastation of seeing it on television. I was in shock, scared, devastated, and in deep thought about of America's Future.

Sept. 11, 2001 will be a day I will never forget. I will tell my small family members and friends later in life. I have not been raised at seven or eight years of age to carry a machine gun, and give my life for the cause in the degree of Terrorism. But, I have not lived in the war zone of the projects here in Chicago, either, or elsewhere.

I have been truly privileged, and I fall in that class of the privilaged to speak my mind, show my gay flag on the car, and go off to a job that is more than minimum wage. I am exploited in a different way here in society. Today I look at life differently, because tomorrow may not arrive. This is a wake-up call to all of us here in the United States of America.

During this time, my gender, orientation, and race has been united as one. My thoughts and prayers go out to the many folks and family members who were affected. Because I was truly affected, and I will recall this could have been right here in Chicago, this attack.

I will look at life differently and everyone else with much more of an effort as one.

Out & Proud

by Harry Tyner Jr

National Coming Out Day is Oct. 11.

I always knew there was something different about me as a child. Growing up in the suburbs, I wasn't into chasing girls, popping their bras or getting caught in the girl's locker room. I was into reading, music and boys.

Coming across a nude magazine like Hustler or Playboy wasn't fascinating to my eye unless there was a nude male in the pictures. Piercing eyes, soft lips, and rough facial features attracted me more than seeing a woman in high heels and a size C cup seductively bent over.

When I first came out, I stayed with my sister, nephew and her boyfriend before making my life in Chicago. While watching a Cubs game, he walked in the room and just asked the question. I was reluctant to answer but held my reign and said yes. Days later, my sister herself would ask the same question, which I firmly confirmed without hesitation and felt a burden lifted off my back.

I had always wanted to tell her, but did not have enough gumption, for fear of being rejected, as she puts it from 'your only sister.' I even came out to a longtime friend whom I have known back when we would spin at parties back in the day. Although my coming out to him was more than two years ago, being straight, not only did we go to the LA Pride Parade, he even tried to hook me up!

Beginning life on my own, I explored my sexuality and began dating, meeting people and being involved in gay and lesbian events. I attended the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade and various clubs like The Clubhouse, Cairo and Bistro. I became a part of a poetry collective called Wordrising, submitted my first article to BLACKlines months after they had just become visible to the community's eye and have gotten credible notice from others ever since. I participated in the Dyke March, assisted with the LLEGO conference and helped young gay men who have or are struggling with their sexuality.

To be out of the closet, you must begin with yourself. Acknowledgement of who you are, being proud and accepting of self is first and foremost. Coming out to family and friends is a challenge, but shows independence and strength. The possibility of being rejected can be a set back, but in time you may see a change in the way they view who you are and the lifestyle you've chosen.

I am appreciative that my family and friends, both straight and gay, continue to show their love and support of me, regardless of my lifestyle.

Hopefully we all can express the same.

poetry corner

If I were a lesbian
What could I possess that would attract you to me? Let's see ...

First, we would have to begin with my smile, Pouty,
Sultry,
Innocent, yet wild
Layered in Cover Girl Ruby Silk Red
Because Max Factor and Maybeline already knew I looked so good.

A Black mini dress with fishnet stockings
To compliment my curves for all to see
As I work the avenue
Legs, snapping
Like a model on the runway,
I throw you a look as if to say
(Quoting Janet. Ms. Jackson, if you're nasty) "What Have You Done For Me Lately?"

If I were a lesbian
I'd crush a straight man's feelings While he's eating out of the palm of my hand.

If I were a lesbian
I'd be a straight man's fantasy,
A straight woman's envy,
Having everyone's curiosity,
Guessing my reality
Because it's his wife I'm dreaming of.

If I were a lesbian
I'd work my way up the corporate ladder,
Build trust amongst thieves,
Breaking hearts along the way.
Then slowly, one by one,
Like flies I'd swat,
Fire the entire staff.
Replacing them with my newfound lesbian friends
So I can have something refreshing to go with my morning coffee.

If I were a lesbian
I'd explain to you why I get moody
Or even sometimes mad at the simplest of things
When you assume I'm on the rag
Or having my monthly period,
It's just my way of saying
Fuck Off or Screw You!

If I were a lesbian
I'd get rid of all my toys
Like 'G.I. Joe Blow' and 'El Grande'
Replacing them with 'Suzy Suck So Good'
And 'Cunninglus Connie'
Because I refuse to play with myself alone.

If I were a lesbian
I'd teach you how to fuck me
How to open me wide and explore me with
Not one,
Not two,
But all of your hands,
Caressing, touching my sensitive areas,
While using your tongue as a compass to go
North of my supple breasts,
East around my honey-dew melon hips
West of my thighs,
Only to submerge yourself into my awaiting garden of delights,
Sweeter than candy,
Juicer than exotic fruit,
Brighter than sunshine
Be the only thing on your mind
As you walk or even saunter down the street,
You begin to stutter while trying to speak.

If I were a lesbian
You wouldn't know what to do!

— DJ Harry T.

Purrfectly Speaking ...

by Anita Charlot

Whew ... it has been a very long month. The kids are back in school, BJ with his Dad, Gerald with me. It hasn't been easy on any of us. Everyday I feel this emptiness inside, like a part of me left with BJ as I dropped him off at his Dad's house. Even though I know that I did the right thing for him, it doesn't make my heart hurt any less. My youngest is trying to be the "biggest boy" learning to adjust to not having his brother around. And my partner, my "Little Buggar," has been as supportive as she can possibly be. She has truly taken on the "Second-Mother" role and has proven to be quite good at it.

As an ambitious mother, I often find myself spread so thin. Trying at times to be all things to all people. Now, if we throw in the twist of me being a lesbian mother, the situation gets even more challenging. I wonder if my partner will get bored with the whole "family" idea. If she will run across another woman that will not have all of the additional responsibility to contend with and find herself slowly moving in her direction. I worry for about a minute or two then I say to myself, "Self ... you are giving everything you have to all that you do, if that isn't good enough and there is someone out there that can take your place ... God Bless Her."

As lesbian and bisexual mothers, we tend to get caught up in not allowing our children to come between our relationships, when it should clearly be the other way around. Our communities, both gay and straight, would have us to believe that because we were once walking the "straight" path or we still find an interest in men, that we are outcasts, that our lives will be full of drama or that our free time/spontaneity will be non-existent. Our challenge here is to live our lives so that we are true to ourselves and our children and not let the ignorance of those that have not walked in our shoes deter us from who we genuinely are inside.

Everyone is not worthy of meeting your children. Your children deserve your one-on-one time. They deserve to know that they are special to you, that no matter who is in or out of your lives, that YOU are the constant factor. Never put your relationship before your children. The woman that requires you to do this is nothing but a child herself. Real women don't ask you to take from your children to give to them. Real women don't compete with your children for your attention. Real women don't make you feel as though you "ought to be grateful that they are spending time with you." Real women would be a complement to your family ... not a complication. Do yourself and your kids a favor ... get to know the person inside and out before trying to mix company and always remember ... . Just because it walks like a duck, acts like a duck and quacks like a duck, doesn't mean that it is a duck.

Anita is the author of ***Poetic Growing Pains ... A Lesbian Mother's Collection of Energetic Expressions on Life and Love*** (available at Women and Children First) and founder of **Purrfect Harmony Unlimited**—a company she created to uplift, inspire and educate the Lesbian and Bisexual Mother (see ad in Out Guide). Look for ***The Reality of Loving and Being Loved by A Lesbian or Bisexual Mother*** to be released Mothers Day 2002. www.purrfectharmonyinc.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH THERAPIES

ARE YOU A WOMAN living with cancer or a chronic illness? Have you been thinking about trying alternative therapies such as homeopathy, chiropractic or acupuncture? We can help you! New program! **Call LCCP (773) 561-4662.** *(12/01)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN professional networking association invites all area GLBT professionals to our monthly meetings. We are a diverse organization of men and women professionals who seek to form friendships and develop networking opportunities within our community. Meetings are held on the First Friday (Social Cocktails) and the Third Wednesday (Dinner Program) of each month. For information: **(773) 296-2762, http://www/cpna.org** *(01/02)*

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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1-800-208-8330.
For all your graphic needs. *(9/01)*

HELP WANTED

THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT (LCCP) is seeking several team players for key positions within the organization. Openings include Development Director, Program Director, and Volunteer/Special Events Coordinator. Positions will include some evening and weekend hours. Candidates with strong organizational, leadership and management skills are encouraged to apply. Bachelor's degree in education, Health Related, or Social Service field or equivalent prior functional experience highly desirable. Background in women's health a plus; bilingual Spanish desirable. LCCP offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package along with a superb opportunity to join a movement that is positively impacting women's lives. For further information about the positions or experience, or to apply, please contact Nancy Feehan or Tony Rossi—Amherst Human Resources group, 312-245-0050, Fax 312-245-0063, arossi@amhersthrg.com (9/01)

LEAD TREATMENT ADVOCATE: Howard Brown Health center seeks a Lead Treatment Advocate to coordinate secondary prevention efforts of the HIV Treatment Advocacy Program by disseminating information to target population about secondary HIV prevention HIV treatment and management, STD transmission and other issues related to coping with HIV. Minimum of associate's degree in relevant field with 2-4 years experience in health education/HIV education required. Knowledge of HIV Treatment and Prevention required. Send resume to **Human Resources, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613. E-mail: jobs@howardbrown.org, or Fax: (773) 388-8887. No phone calls please. People of color and persons living with HIV/AIDS encouraged to apply.** *(11/03-3)*

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS! Work from home $$$. Free information: **(888) 482-7839. check out: www.123dreambuilder.com** *(11/03-3)*

TRAVEL

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $29/12 issues (hdcpy only). Maleboxdc@ yahoo.com 1-800-798-3477 for sample.

BLACKLINES CLASSIFIEDS
$10 one month; $27 three months; $51 six months just $90 one year
(773) 871-7610

All rates for 30 words
(25¢ each word over 30)
All rates PRE-PAID only.

DEADLINE
the 10th of each month for following month.

All articles, poetry, artwork must be turned in by the 5th of each month.

WINDY CITY RADIO

by Lambda Publications
(Windy City Times, BLACKlines, En La Vida, Nightlines)

10:30 p.m. on WCKG, 105.9 FM
90 minutes of talk, entertainment and more
Amy Matheny, Mary Morten, David Cottrell, Gregg Shapiro
... and some of your favorite BLACKlines writers.
AWARE Talk Radio will air Sundays 10-10:30 p.m. on WCKG, just prior to Windy City Radio

THE VOICE OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY

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PERSONALS

CODES: ISO = In Search Of, LTR = Long Term Relationship

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101.

To keep your free voice box active continuously, you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.

WARNINGS: 1. We do not print home phone numbers or addresses. 2. Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, e-mail or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- ▼ If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/ min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra $$): ❒ Windy City Times ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)!

❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Classified rates ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($7 per month)	$_____
Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	$_____

Send to: BLACKlines/Windy City, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

MEN

Black male VGL, sensitive, 29 y/o, 6'2", 240# ISO mature, attractive GWM, good communicator, sensitive, and ready for a LTR. **VM (636) 391-8625**(11)

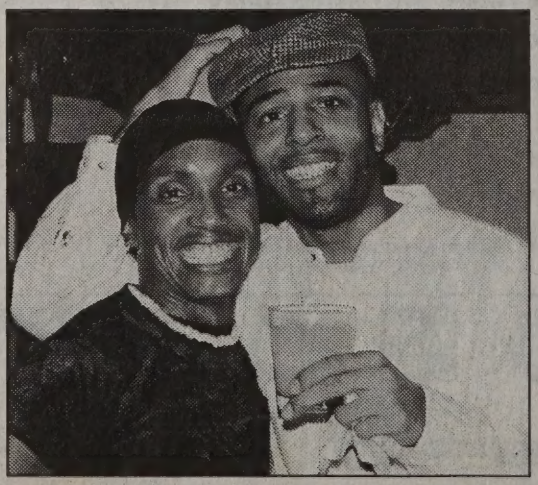
Hung Blk BTM seeks masculine total top. I am a GBM mid-30's 6', 165#. Slender, smooth, seeks slender top 24-40 y/o for intimate sessions. **(323) 671-7814** *(11)*

I would like to hold each others hands under the stars, letting you know how special you are and give you always love, passion, loyalty, romance, friendship and more. Nice looking Latino 29 y/o, 6', 150# seeks tall skinny guy for long term relationship. Photo/phone to get mine. Please serious only. **NL Box 725.** *(11)*

GWM, 52, SW Chicago, 180#, 6', HIV-, hairy, smoker, interested in relationship, any race. Enclose snapshot. **NL Box 723** *(10)*

Attractive GBM 35 seeks new friendships w/ genuine LTR oriented men, 30-38 years old. Drop me a line stating your hobbies and interests. I love jazz and dining out and intimate quiet times. **Boxholder, PO Box #268241, Chicago, IL 60626-8241** *(11)*

Busco Mi Otra Mitad Soy Mexicano Guapo, 31 anos pelo Negro, Chiva, Vigote Tu Entre 24 y 38 anos Ispano, Italiano. Call me **708 222-0451** *(10)*



Enjoying the Test Positive Aware Network's annual gala benefit. Pic by Israel Wright

WOMEN

GBF, 40s, 5'7", attractive, soft butch, employed, mature, loving, D/D/D/free, non-driver. You GBHF 30s-40s, attractive, built 5'5" - 5'-8", loving, drug/disease free, no drama, no men. Let's discover interests together. Goals: short: compatibility, dating. Long: commitment. You drive. Let's have some summer fun. **NL Box 630** or **VOICE 53638** *(11)*

SBP 37+, feminine, mature, intelligent, witty and attractive lesbian that is ISO SG feminine or soft butch for occasional conversation or possible dating if we connect. Race is not a factor. Please be at least 32 y/o, n/s, drug/disease free, also intelligent, mature, responsible, honest and fun loving. No Bi's or men, please. Please enjoy life, for it is not promised. **VM (312) 851-2784** *(11)*

Soft butch seeks adventure, travel, and LTR with over 40 spiritual, fun-loving, and financially independent fem. I am cultured, ambitious, humorous , and attractive. Professional, no bi's, n/s, no drugs. Messages **(773) 454-0069** e-mail **poohbearz@cutey.com** *(10)*

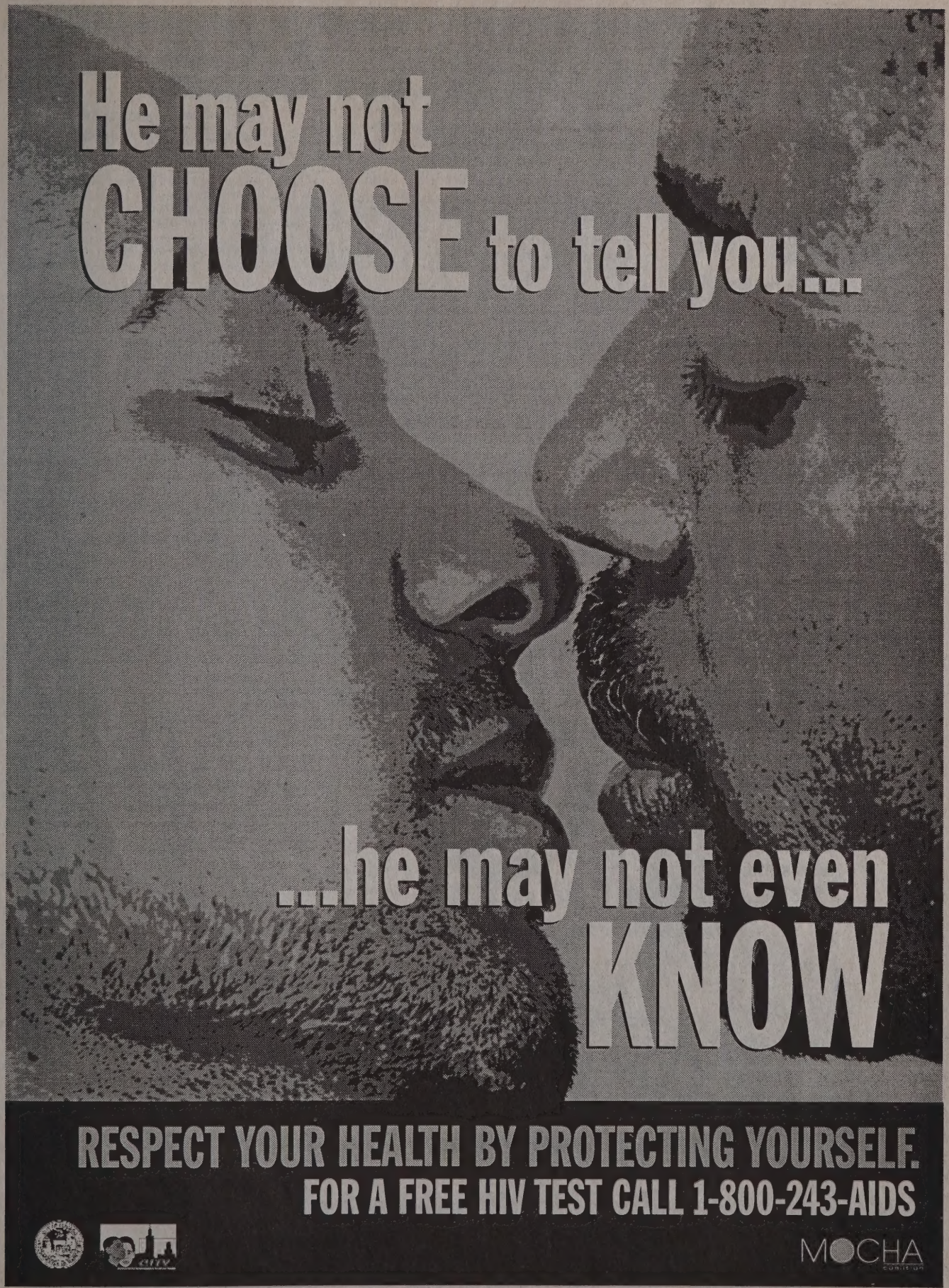
Athletically feminine, attractive, financially secure 45 y/o lesbian who works hard and enjoys life ISO a 35-50 y/o attractive, spiritual, intelligent, nonsmoking, sensual woman who has a positive outlook. Race/economic status aren't significant to me, but I do enjoy women who move with grace. **Kungfudoc@aol.com** or **Voice 53632** *(10)*

Fresh late 40 SBF professional seeks attractive witty, very feminine 35-45 y/o playmate who appreciates the finer things in life, doesn't mind occasionally spoiling, understanding the value of smiles and making the most of summer breezes and sunshine. Please enjoy short trips, all types of music, and fun, creative new explorations and giving/receiving affection. Be disease ad drug free, non-smoker who is totally gay and completely over your last lover. Write **sugarfish712@aol.com** (11)

Latina lesbian, age 47. Love is in the air and I want my share. Lets taste the fine juices of loving passion and never allow a kiss to slip between us. No smokers, alcoholics or drug addicts need respond. Write me if you want to know my interests and more about me. **NL 600** *(10)*

Mix & Match

Sexy, sexy TS looking for a muscular 6', 34' waist, hairy chest, legs, bubble butt man for husband, now. **Voice 53656** *(11)*


He may not
CHOOSE to tell you...
...he may not even
KNOW
RESPECT YOUR HEALTH BY PROTECTING YOURSELF.
FOR A FREE HIV TEST CALL 1-800-243-AIDS
MOCHA

WORLD WIDE WEB

by Andrew Davis

Crawling Along the Web

1. Got a gala you want the world to know about? If you have a GLBT-related happening, look no further than GLBTEvents.com. This new site allows you to send info for events occurring through the end of 2002. (A quick scan shows info for everything from the Barcelona Gay & Lesbian Film Festival to Sisterspace Weekend.) Once you submit, it's instantly placed.

2. With National Coming Out Day right around the corner (Oct. 11), it might be a good time to look at an African-American site I promoted last year (http://www.qrd.org/www/culture/black/discussion/cominghome.html). It's an article that discusses why it's particularly hard for members of the Black community to say "Hey! I'm gay!" Some other sites that might provide help include PlanetOut (www.planetout.com) and HRC (http://www.hrc.org/ncop/).

3. The QV Magazine site (www.qvmagazine.com), as you might guess, is there to promote the gay Latino male mag QV. Not only can you find photos of some incredibly hot Latino men, but you can read interviews with celebrities (such as Victor Calderone and Madonna's backup singer Donna DeLory), advice columns, and even get a list of gay Latino clubs across the nation (including Circuit, Club Frequency, and Banana Tunnel). And to answer your question—yes, Virginia, there is a personals page.

4. Mary J. Blige's official site (www.mjblige.com) has updated news on the singer including, of course, info on her new CD, No More Drama. The "About" page features a Blige biography, pictures, and interviews while the "Community" page has a message board and MJB links. The best part is the fact that you can listen to a snippet of any song on the new CD by selecting a tune from the pull-down menu. An added treat is you can download videos (including TV performances) and audio (such as "Sweet Thing" and "Deep Inside").

5. Ready for a little controversy? The Gay/Bisexual Male Suicidality Studies Info Site has a page devoted to racism in predominantly white gay communities (http://www.sws.soton.ac.uk/gay-youth-suicide/racism-gay-lesbian/). Not only can you read articles from African-, Asian-, and Latino-American perspectives, but there are also pieces from other countries.

I'm at turn_it_up@hotmail.com.

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F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTIMUS 312-901-1703
EXECUTIVE SWEET 7345 S. Luella 60649; ***call for party info***
p.mccombs@worldnet.att.net 773-375-7144
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
KC PRODUCTIONS, EAST OF THE RYAN
914 E. 79th St. 773-386-5700
THE RAILS AT PROP HOUSE, 1675 N. Elston,
MW,D, TheRails@aol.com 708-802-1705

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R 773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark 773-728-0050
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D 773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 312-409-0276
1700 W. Farragut, one block north of Foster
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe 773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V 773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D 773-327-7711
STAR GAZE 5419 N. Clark, M,W,R,D,E 773-561-7363
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat) 847-455-0008

Resources

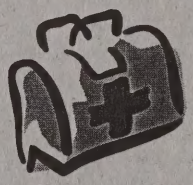
AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-529-0321
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649 773-324-0377
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans Performers
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread 312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./WINDY CITY TIMES
1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com
P.O. Box 496024. Chicago 60649
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network)
Programming 773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent... 773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181 312-409-4917
Chicago Black Pride 773-731-8665
chicagofri@aol.com , 7836 S. Kingston Ave., 60649
Chicago Friends Community Service Network
7836 S. Kingston Ave., 60649 773-731-8665
Afric.Amer. men single-parent support & young adult mentors
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 .. 773-778-3030
Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
EXECUTIVE SWEET 7345 S. Luella 60649; ***call for party info***
p.mccombs@worldnet.att.net 773-375-7144
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent .. 773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, 4549 W. Washington 60624
Fax (773) 287-9860 773-287-3263
Harambe Wellness Center 773-388-1600
Harambe Jahard Suburban
Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen 708-492-2055
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Anti-Violence Project: Horizons/24 hrs 773-871-CARE
Howard Brown Health Center 773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men 773-334-7059
meets Ann Sather's, 929 Belmont
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band 773-381-6693
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1346 S. Michigan 312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum 202-483-6786
Oak Park Area Women's Drum Circle 708-763-0991
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
Roseland Community Hospital 773-995-6469
Southside Coalition 10420 S. Halsted, HIV 773-445-9520
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support .. 773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois 847-625-7263
TransGenesis trans support 800-805-4052
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839
Windy City Black Pride 312-986-0661 x31
1346 S. Michigan, windycitybp@yahoo.com
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120
Womyn Space: Lez Be In, a sister circle 773-874-2222

test positive aware NETWORK

EMPOWERING, SUPPORTING CONTINUING OUR COMMITMENT

NEWLY DIAGNOSED
MONDAYS, 7:30 PM
For those newly diagnosed or starting to deal with HIV

LIVING POSITIVE
TUESDAYS, 7:30 PM
HIV and its impact on gay relationships



MEDICAL CLINIC
WEDNESDAYS, 3:30 – 7:30 PM
THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2:00 – 5:00 PM
Anonymous & confidential HIV/STD and hepatitis testing,
T Cell and viral load screening
(drop in and by appointment – sliding fee scale down to $0)

BROTHERS UNITED IN SUPPORT (BUS)
THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM
Same gender loving African-American men
and Transgenders living with HIV

SAFE PASSAGE
FRIDAYS, 7:00 PM
For HIV positive young adults between the ages of 18-24

Test Positive Aware Network
1258 W. Belmont Avenue
773.404.8726
www.tpan.com

UNITY UNIDAD 2001

Join Your Community at UNITY 2001

a Collaborative, Interactive, and Inclusive Bridge Building Event for All of the Diversities of Chicago's LBGT Community.

ENGAGE • EMBRACE • TOGETHERNESS
INVOLUCRAR • ADOPTAR • SOLIDARIDAD

Saturday, October 13
10am to 7pm

University of Illinois
Chicago Campus, Student Center
828 S. Wolcott

for More Information
312-409-4917
CBLG2k1@aol.com

CBLG, 2110 N. St. Louis, #3 , Chicago, Illinois 60647

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Network, share ideas, build skills, affirm community and celebrate our diversity.

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Unity 2001 is being underwritten by the MOCHA Coalition of the Chicago Department of Public Health.
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